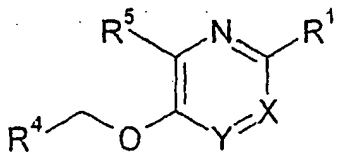
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) A compound of the formula I:



wherein:

-X=Y- is selected from $-CR^2=CR^3-$ and $-CR^2=N-$;

R^1 is selected from H, halo, NRR', NHC(=0)R, NHC(=O)NRR', NH_2SO_2R, and C(=O)NRR', where R and R' are independently selected from H and C_{1-4} alkyl, and are optionally substituted by OH, NH_2, SQ-NH_2, C_{5-20} carboaryl, C_{5-20} heteroaryl and C_{3-20} heterocyclyl, or may together form, with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, an optionally substituted nitrogen containing C_{5-7} heterocyclyl group;

R^2 and R3 (where present) are independently selected from H, optionally substituted C_{1-7} alkyl, optionally substituted C_{5-20} aryl, optionally substituted C_{3-20} heterocyclyl, halo, amino, amido, hydroxy, ether, thio, thioether, acylamido, ureido and sulfonamino;

R^4 an optionally substituted C_{5-20} carboaryl or C_{5-20} heteroaryl group; and

R^5 is selected from $R^{5'}$, halo, $NHR^{5'}$, $C(=O)NHR^{5'}$, $OR^{5'}$, $SR^{5'}$, $NHC(=0)R^{5'}$, $NHC(=O)NHR^{5'}$, $NHS(=0)_2R^{5'}$, wherein $R^{5'}$ is H or C_{1-3} alkyl (optionally substituted by halo, NH_2, OH, SH);

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof for use in a method of therapy.

2. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein –X=Y- is -CR^2=N-.

3. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~either claim 1 or claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein R^5 is selected from $R^{5'}$, halo, $NH^{R5'}$, $OR^{5'}$, $SR^{5'}$, wherein $R^{5'}$ is H or C_{1-3} alkyl, optionally substituted by halo, NH_2, OH, SH.

4. (original) A compound according to claim 3, wherein R^5 is selected from H and NH_2.

5. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein R^1 is selected from H, NRR', NHC(=O)R, NHC(=O)NRR', and NH_2SO_2R.

6. (currently amended) A compound according to claim ~~6~~5, wherein R1 is selected from H and NH_2.

7. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim1, wherein R^2 and R^3 (where present) are independently selected from H, halo, amino, hydroxy and thio.

8. (original) A compound according to claim 7, wherein R^2 and R^3 (where present) are selected from H and halo.

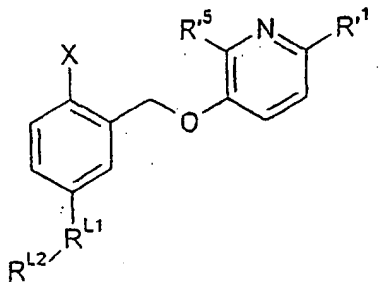
9. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein R4 is an optionally substituted C_{5-10} aryl group.

10. (original) A compound according to claim 9, wherein R^4 is selected from a C_{5-10} carboaryl group and a C_{5-10} heteroaryl group having one or two nitrogen ring atoms.

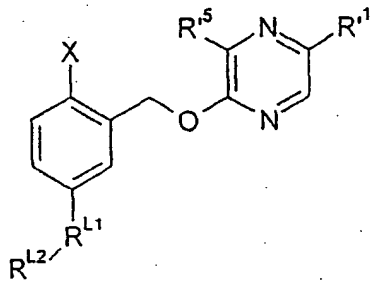
11. (original) A compound according to claim 10, wherein R^4 is an optionally substituted phenyl or napthyl group.

12. (original) A compound according to claim 11, wherein R^4 is a phenyl group substituted with one or two substituents independently selected from halo, ether, C_{1-7} alkyl, C_{5-20} aryl, amido, acylamido, ureido, carbamate and reverse carbamate.

13. (original) A compound according to claim 1 of either formula IIa formula IIb:



(IIa)



(IIb)

wherein:

R'^1 is selected from H, $NR^{C1}R^{C2}$, NRC (=O)R^{C1}, NHC(=O)$NR^{C1}R^{C2}$, $NH_2SO_2K^{C1}$, and C(=O)$NR^{C1}R^{C2}$, where R^{C1} and R^{C2} are independently selected from H and C_{1-4} alkyl, and are optionally substituted by OH, NH_2, C_{5-20} carboaryl, and C_{5-20} heteroaryl, or may together form, with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, an optionally substituted nitrogen containing C_{5-7} heterocyclyl group;

R'^5 is selected from H and NH_2;

X is selected from H and halo;

R^{L1} is selected from -NH-C(=O)-, -NH-C(=O)-NH-, -NH-C(=O)-O- or

-O-C (=O) -NH-;

R^{L2} is selected from H, optionally substituted C_{5-20} carboaryl and optionally substituted C_{5-20} heteroaryl, except that RL2 cannot be H when RL1 is

-NH-C(=O)-O-.

14. (original) A compound according to claim 13 of formula IIa.

15. (original) A compound according to claim 14, wherein

R'^1 is selected from H and $NR^{C1}R^{C2}$.

16. (original) A compound according to claim 15, wherein R'^1 is selected from H and NHR^{C1}.

17. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claims 14 to 16~~claim

14, wherein R'^5 is H.

18. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claims 14 to 17~~ claim 14, wherein X is halo.

19. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claims 14 to 18~~ claim 14, wherein R^{L1} is -NH-C (=0) -.

20. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claims 14 to 19~~ claim 14, wherein R^{L2} is a C_{5-20} carboaryl or C_{5-20} heteroaryl group.

21. (original) A compound according to claim 13, of formula IIb.

22. (original) A compound according to claim 21, wherein R'^1 is selected from H and $NR^{C1}R^{C2}$.

23. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~either claim 21 or claim 22~~ claim 21, wherein R'5 is H.

24. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claims 21 to 23~~ claim 21, wherein X is halo.

25. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claims 21 to 24~~ claim

21, wherein R^{L1} is -NH-C(=O)-NH-.

26. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claims 21 to 25~~ claim 21, wherein R^{L2} is a C_{5-20} carboaryl or C_{5-20} heteroaryl group.

27. (currently amended) A compound of formula IIa or IIb as described in ~~any one of claims 13 to 26~~ claim 13, or an isomer, salt, solvate or prodrugs thereof.

28. (currently amended) A composition comprising a compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 26~~ claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

29. (currently amended) The use of a compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 26~~ claim 1 for the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of condition ameliorated by the inhibition of p38 MAP kinase.

30. (original) The use according to claim 29, wherein the conditions ameliorated by the inhibition of p38 MAP kinase is an arthritic condition.

31. (currently amended) A method for the treatment of a condition ameliorated by the inhibition of p38 MAP kinase comprising administering to a subject suffering from said a condition ameliorated by the inhibition of p38 MAP kinase a therapeutically—effective amount of a compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 26~~ claim 1.

32. (original) The method according to claim 29, wherein the conditions ameliorated by the inhibition of p38 MAP kinase is an arthritic condition.